

HOUSE RESOLUTION 133
By Hood

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Leonard Norris on the celebration of 90th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Norris celebrated his 90th birthday on May 9, 2005, a milestone that was commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of the Murfreesboro community, Mr. Norris has been laudably devoted throughout his life to the service of his country, its Armed Forces and his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, in his professional career, he has served with acumen and alacrity in defense of our nation as a member of the United States Army Cavalry Corps, enlisting at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; after being transferred to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and then back to Fort Bragg, this gallant patriot earned distinction and numerous honors for the unsurpassed quality of his work as an Artillery Instructor. He trained the first black unit in artillery use and was congratulated by the First Lady, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt; and

WHEREAS, at the beginning of World War II, Mr. Norris was assigned to combat duty in Europe, and for the next four years, he served with distinction in North Africa and Italy as one of those brave Americans who earned the rightful designation of the "greatest generation"; and

WHEREAS, upon returning from World War II, this great man reenlisted and became a professional Army soldier, ranking as a Technical Sergeant; in 1950, he was promoted to serve as First Sergeant of the 10th Field Veterinary Medical Detachment in Wurzburg, Germany; and

WHEREAS, after returning from Germany in 1956, Mr. Norris settled in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, where he was assigned to serve as an U.S. Army Recruiter; and

WHEREAS, it was after moving to Murfreesboro that Mr. Norris first met the honorable John Hood, an announcer with WGNS radio; to this day, the two have maintained a highly-valued friendship; and

WHEREAS, in 1960, this remarkable officer and gentleman retired from military service and began a second career with The Army and Air Force Exchange in Smyrna, Tennessee; in this position he performed challenging assignments in Korea, Washington, D.C., Florida, and Okinawa, Japan; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Leonard Norris decided to return home to Murfreesboro and retire once again; at this point he started his third career as a prominent homebuilder, and earned the respect and admiration of his fellow citizens as an astute businessman and community leader; and

WHEREAS, the unrivalled quality of his leadership and craftsmanship is well known throughout the region; Mr. Norris built 50 homes in 15 years and introduced the dormer window Maryland style home to Rutherford County; Mr. Norris still rents, maintains, and renovates rental properties that he built himself; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Norris is known throughout Rutherford County as a tireless advocate for the U.S. Military, his family and the common good, and he is a friend to all; and

WHEREAS, his professional accomplishments aside, Leonard Norris has always striven to uphold the highest standards of family and community values; and

WHEREAS, in 1942, Mr. Norris joined Mildred (Butch) Jones in holy matrimony, and although Mrs. Norris has passed on to her great reward, he still cherishes the many years of love and companionship that they shared; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Norris is also the devoted father of two children, Leonard Dale Norris and Linda Norris Parks, and the proud grandfather of two grandchildren, Robert Newton Parks and Eric Leonard Parks, and he also has two great-grandchildren, twins Robert Ingram Parks and Lauren Elisabeth Parks; and

WHEREAS, as Leonard Norris enters his 10th decade, he is still an active and productive member of society, participating in various professional, civic and community events; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Norris has shown himself to be imbued with the spirit of public service that has earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State"; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate Leonard Norris on the celebration of his 90th birthday and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.